

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of an Office Action dated July 11, 2007. In this response, Applicant has cancelled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer in order to permit allowed claim 5 to issue without further delay. Claims 4 and 6-9 are currently amended to depend from allowed claim 5. Following entry of this amendment, claims 4-9 remain pending in the application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the PTO has rejected claims 1, 4, and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,082,449 to Yamaguchi *et al.* in view of French Patent FR 2,549,593 to Mansoux (hereafter “FR ‘593”). In this response, Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and amended claims 4 and 6-9 to depend from allowed claim 5, rendering this rejection moot. Applicant does not acquiesce in the PTO’s rejection of these claims but has canceled claim 1 at this time solely in order to permit the corrected objected to claims to issue without further delay. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under § 103(a) inasmuch as the claim amendments above render it moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the PTO’s indication, on page 3 of the Office Action, that claim 5 is allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

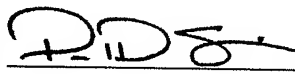
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment,

to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 10/13/08

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5540
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Paul D. Strain
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 47,369